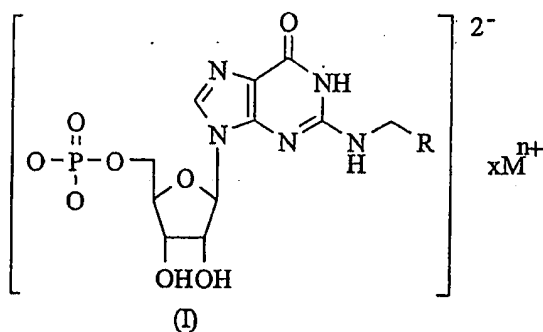


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Compounds of general formula (I)



wherein, R is:

C1-C4 alkyl, optionally substituted with an S-R¹ group, in which R¹ is C₁-C₃ alkyl;

a phenyl, benzyl, thiophenyl or benzothiophenyl group, optionally substituted with 1-5 substituents, preferably 1 to 3 substituents, which can be the same or different, selected from -NO₂, -CHO, -R¹ or -SR¹ groups, in which R¹ has the meaning defined above;

M is hydrogen, an alkali or alkaline-earth metal;

X is 1 when n is 2 and X is 2 when n is 1 with the exclusion of the compounds of formula (I) wherein R is methyl or propyl.

2. (Original) Compounds as claimed in claim 1 wherein R is straight C₁-C₃ alkyl substituted with an, S-R¹ group, in which R¹ is methyl.

3. (Original) Compounds as claimed in claims 1, wherein R is a phenyl, thiophenyl or benzothiophenyl group, optionally substituted with an -NO₂, methyl or -SR¹ group, in which R¹ is as defined in claim 1.

4. (Currently Amended) Compounds as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein M is hydrogen, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium or barium.

5. (Original) Compounds as claimed in claim 1, wherein M is hydrogen, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium or barium and R is:

straight C₁-C₃ alkyl substituted with a -SCH₃ group;

a phenyl, thiophenyl or benzothiophenyl group, optionally substituted with an -NO₂, methyl or -SCH₃ group.

6. (Currently Amended) Compounds as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 in which M is hydrogen or sodium.

7. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 which is selected from:

N²-(3-methylthio)-propyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;

N²-(4-methylthiophenyl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;

N²-(2-methylthiophenyl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;

N²-thiophen-2-yl-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;

N²-thiophen-3-yl-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;

N²-(5-methylthiophen-2-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;

N²-(3-methylthiophen-2-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;

N²-(3-ethylthiophen-2-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;

N²-(3-nitrothiophen-2-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate;

N²-(thianaphthen-3-yl)-methyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate

and the corresponding sodium salts.

8. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 7 which is N²-(3-Methylthio)-propyl guanosine-5'-monophosphate and the corresponding sodium salt.

9. (Currently Amended) The use of the compounds as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1 as flavour enhancers in food preparations.

10. (Currently Amended) The use of the compounds as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, alone or in combination with monosodium glutamate and/or with 5'-monophosphate nucleotides, as flavour enhancers in food preparations.

11. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~ for the preparation of pasta, risottos, soups, dried and wet soups, snacks, sauces, salad dressings, ready-made red and white sauces, stock cubes, soup preparations, cooked and uncooked dressed meats, tinned meat, stuffed pasta and preserved vegetables.

12. (Currently Amended) Flavour enhancers comprising a compound of ~~claims 1 to 8~~
claim 1 in admixture with monosodium glutamate and/or with 5'-monophosphate nucleotides.

13. (Original) Food preparations containing the compositions of claim 12.

14. (NEW) Compounds as claimed claim 2, wherein M is hydrogen, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium or barium.

15. (NEW) Compounds as claimed in claim 3, wherein M is hydrogen, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium or barium.

16. (NEW) Compounds as claimed in claim 2 in which M is hydrogen or sodium.

17. (NEW) Compounds as claimed in claim 3 in which M is hydrogen or sodium.

18. (NEW) Compounds as claimed in claim 4 in which M is hydrogen or sodium.

19. (NEW) Compounds as claimed in claim 5 in which M is hydrogen or sodium.